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**SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMAN SENTENCED FOR  
THEFT OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MONEY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that CHERIE THOMPSON, 50, of Antelope, California, was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell for stealing United States Social Security Administration funds by fraud.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, on October 20, 2006, THOMPSON, admitted that from 1991 through October 2005, she falsely claimed to be unmarried in order to qualify for and to receive social security benefits. During the relevant time period, THOMPSON stole \$146,788.93 in social security funds that she was not entitled to receive.

THOMPSON, a first time offender, was sentenced to five years of federal probation. As a condition of probation, THOMPSON will be subject to house arrest for ten months. THOMPSON was ordered to make full restitution of \$146,788.93 to the United States for her theft of Social Security Administration funds.

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